

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 5-12, 16, 17 and 20-23 are amended. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. The Claims Satisfy All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to the claims because of informalities. Specifically, the Office Action objects to the recitation of "detection object" and the recitation in claims 7 and 8 of "the feature point of the image." As discussed in the April 19, 2006 telephone interview, the claims are amended to obviate the objections. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 and 13-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,603,462 to Matusis (hereinafter "Matusis"); claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,501,846 to Dickinson et al. (hereinafter "Dickinson"); and claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Dickinson in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,752,966 to Schiller (hereinafter "Schiller"). As discussed in the April 19, 2006 telephone interview, Applicant understands that it was the Examiner's intention also to reject method claims 20-23 under the same bases as claim 1. Thus, the rejections are traversed below with regard to all pending claims.

The Examiner may assert that Dickinson discloses detecting rotation. However, Dickinson does not disclose the rotation direction. Further, Matusis, Dickinson and Schiller do not disclose detecting the rotation direction around at least one of the first and second axes on the detection surface, as claimed in claims 1, 2 and 20. Thus, the applied art cannot provide advantages of the claimed invention, i.e., an input device which can improve security protection and operability.

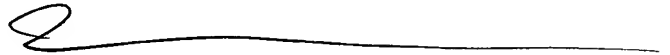
For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2 and 20 are distinguishable over the applied art. It is also respectfully submitted that the claims that depend therefrom are distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed as well as for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejections based on the applied art is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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